

God's Love As A Weapon

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Just the fact that Jesus said we had to be wise as serpents should tell us what kind of war Satan wages against us. Why would we need wisdom unless we were up against an enemy whose arsenal was full of weapons that could only be combated by WISDOM?

There have never been more promises and prophecies concerning any other decade except perhaps the time surrounding the cross, than there have been for the decade of the nineties.

I am hearing many things from many preachers but the thing I am hearing most is from the Holy Spirit and it has to do with something God wants to give us that will make us stronger than anything we had ever dreamed possible. And that is the little understood subject of the LOVE of GOD as a weapon.

What is going to make the revivals of the nineties some of the greatest revivals of all time is not just because of the power that will be manifesting itself in the supernatural realm of signs and wonders, but the revivals will be marked by a bond of love between believers so strong that it will enable them to brace themselves against one of Satan's most influential hours on the world scene and in world governments.

As people of God, we have explored such things as faith, power, righteousness, etc., when the one thing we should have been giving the greatest heed to is the love of God. But, as with anything else that is a major threat to the devil, he will go to any lengths to make sure we do not come into an understanding of how it operates.

For love IS the greatest of all these things, an incredible resource of power that cannot fail, and the church must come to the realization that "THERE IS NO OTHER WAY".

It should come as no surprise the devil fears our discovery of love, especially love as a weapon, because it is the most dreadful, appalling, disorienting thing you could ever do to him!

As faith people, we have been infatuated with the principles of faith and we have a right to be. Faith is so powerful that it gives us access to God and holds the promise of making an array of things available to us such as prosperity.

The devil has no problem with the aspect of our having faith. He cannot deny that faith has been made available to us nor can he deny how potentially dangerous the operation of faith can be. So he knows the most powerful form of deception is making us believe we already have and understand faith when we do not.

When faith, as we have been led to understand it (under the conditions imposed on us through deception/conditioning), begins to break down and fall short of our expectations, we become disillusioned with faith and settle for a mind-set of defeat thinking that faith is not all it is supposed to be.

But faith is like money, it carries incredible power and, no matter how much we try to wield that power, there will be a governor placed upon it unless it is wielded correctly. No matter how hard we try, our faith will not run any faster than the governor that has been placed upon it will allow, and the only thing that can take the limit off of that governor is the love of God!

Let's talk about the incredible role that love plays in the operation of our faith. We must be "wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove" because the devil is full of venomous poison and he does strike to kill. He does not have an encounter planned for us - that we should survive!

In order for us to survive his confrontation, we must be WISE as a serpent, meaning we should not be ignorant of Satan's devices, and, if we are going to survive his onslaught, we must understand how he works.

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Someone may say, "Not me, bless God! Jesus has given me power over all the power of the enemy." And, they could not be any more correct! No one knows this any better than the devil which is exactly why he resorts to deception. He has to literally deceive you into accepting your own defeat because, IF you will not accept defeat, he does not have the power to defeat you!

Satan is a conniving, scheming, murderer who is a master at manipulation. If you will let him, he will play your life like a bad hand of cards until you are totally defeated.

Much to Satan's dismay, I have found that the most effective weapon of exposing Satan as a wolf in sheep's clothing is to allow the love of God to affect our thinking and motives in such a way that we can spot an oncoming invasion from the enemy a mile away.

The more full of God's love we become, the more stripped down and naked Satan becomes until, through hindsight, we can look back over our lives and say, "I wish I had certain things to live over again. Now I can see where the devil got in." And, along with all of this, we find out how really gracious God was to us through each ordeal.

There will be a people so bound together by God that they are going to love US more than they love money, fame, or fortune. A people who esteem friendship as the more priceless possession of this life and to whom no amount of money, power, or glory can cause them to turn their backs on one another.

A people who are willing to forfeit their short temporary lives by laying them down in love, one for another, in the service of the cross. These people will esteem the glories of Heaven as the great reward of all. These will be the greatest people of faith and power the world has ever seen. Let's ask our Heavenly Father to teach us how to be numbered among these people.

The devil is not going to tell us that we do not have faith. What he wants to do is deceive us into

believing that faith does not work very well for us. When preachers came on the scene teaching on prosperity, it imposed a special kind of threat to the devil because he would just as soon have kept that truth buried. But, all of a sudden, in our generation, he has hundreds of thousands of believers to contend with who are looking towards heaven believing that God has made them rich spiritually and financially.

It would not do any good for the devil to try to tell this group that prosperity is not for today. They would walk the floor and scream verses at him, telling him that he is a liar!

So instead, he chimes in with them, knowing he can take this fresh troop of recruits and, in only a matter of time, he can overcome their faith by, not trying to talk them out of it but by, using deception to get them to use their new-found prosperity on the wrong things.

We know that this is the decade when God is going to attempt to get the wealth of the wicked into the hands of the just. James 5:1-3 says; *"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days."*

I have always wondered what it would take to have a generation come forth that money could not control, a generation who would control money instead of money controlling them.

This present time will be a decade when businesses will be more dependent on international economies than ever before. The devil will draw more clear-cut lines between his camp and the camp of the saints of God.

He is attempting to instigate a one-world monetary system so he will be able to control the wealth of the world and the incredible power that wealth represents.

Just before this takes place, there will be the greatest revival this world has ever seen. Not just in the realm of preaching and evangelism, signs and wonders, but in an incredible revival of wealth in the camp of the saints as believers wake up to the fact that God is going to use the power in money to fuel the greatest world-wide sweep of souls in the history of this planet.

It may interest you to know we are living on an abundant lush planet. All five billion of earth's inhabitants could stand in 2x2 foot cubicles and only take up one-half of Jacksonville County, Florida. And, if all the wealth and known assets of this world were liquidated, every man, woman, and child on the face of this planet would receive TEN MILLION dollars apiece.

The only reason any culture is starving to death is because the greedy crowd is controlling the money. The problem has never been whether or not resources and money were available. The problem has been when God looks at us what does He see? Does He see a channel or a dam?

Would you believe me if I told you that God is looking for a group of believers to recruit into the most vigorous training program in the history of the church. A boot camp so rigorous that it is

designed to teach us how to survive in the face of one of Satan's most vicious weapons.

If a man falls under the power of this weapon of greed, then the devil will have the controlling interest in his life because the LOVE of MONEY is the root of ALL EVIL.

I like the way Jesus handled it when the devil offered to make him the wealthiest man in the world. Matthew 4:8-10 says; "*Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*"

What God wants to do is use the power that's in money to carry the Gospel to every creature who will listen while money still has the power to do so under a free enterprising system. The devil is trying to combat this massive move of God with the mark of the beast ... 666.

Up until now the only weapons that Satan had against us, the saints of God, to stop us from appropriating large sums of money for the Kingdom of God was by turning the power that is in money against us instead of for us.

Any believer who has the potential for millions or who has millions in the bank, under our present system of free enterprise that money represents pure power. That believer has it within his command, at the wave of his hand, to put the message of salvation into every person's home on every television channel throughout whole nations, such as Brazil, almost overnight. He has the power to stop the descent of thousands of people into hell who have never heard the Gospel.

This kind of power makes the devil very nervous but he is cunning and full of conniving, scheming wisdom. He knows that the same power that can move mountains for the Kingdom of God can be unleashed against us and latch onto our characters with such a vengeance that we feel like we are the victims of a supercharged tractor-pull and are being pulled apart toward a world of greed, false security, and manipulative power.

Giving was never meant to be a magical formula of some kind to bind God to serve our cause. But rather it was designed to cultivate the side of our nature that has the capacity to be godly, gentle, kind, and giving. So, when prosperity was revealed as a principle of God, the devil simply checkmated the whole thing, NOT by telling us that it was FALSE but, by subtly convincing us that God could be made to serve the side of our nature that leaned towards greed. Therefore, the purpose of giving was to get more and more until the want for MORE out-weighed the GIVING.

God is looking for people that can handle massive amounts of money but, like every saint before us who has successfully used money to propagate the kingdom, to be successful on any scale, the real battle is not with lack of finances or because of the country you live in, the real battle lies within our character.

The more aggressively you pursue love and produce change the more potential you will have for blessing the kingdom with finances. And the more you serve the kingdom the more reward you will

have. Yet I know, for most people, the distance between where they are now and where they would like to be may as well be a million miles because it can all seem so hopeless.

In fact, the void between a person and the reality of those things can seem so great that the devil will cause them to look almost helplessly in the direction of the other side thinking, "Well, there is one thing for sure, it would have to be God. Short of God, no one could help my situation."

But remember, God said to be wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove. Satan wants to badger us into believing that in our particular case there is no way out, there is nothing we can do so there is no use trying. What he wants to keep hidden from us is that the prime objective, when it comes to finances, is character development, including love, and that does not usually come overnight.

Many times, in desperation or because we are trying to invoke God into giving us the good life, we will make promises to God that we do not have the character to keep, promises like, "God, if you will prosper my business or give me a raise on my job, I will give you thirty percent of everything."

Where we miss the character development is, if we cannot stand up to the devil now and fight him where we are, right now in the middle of our present situation, giving God thirty cents on every dollar, what makes us think we can stand up to the fury that can be unleashed against our character when suddenly the power has become available to cultivate any desire of our flesh!

I guarantee you, the battle that rages within our emotions in the presence of lack and insufficiency to keep us from giving is nothing compared to the war that will be launched against our flesh in the presence of riches and opulence. For when it comes to adversity, the flesh always looks for a way out but, when it comes to pleasure, it looks for a way in.

WE MUST willfully take a stand, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk in the Love of God (faith worketh by love). So that, as God builds and refines our characters, we can stand against our adversary, the devil, as he seeks to deceive us.

WE WILL stand steadfast in the face of every persecution, affliction, and care.

WE WILL fight with everything in us ... that fight of faith through love, God's love, to be an overcomer.

PERILOUS TIMES ARE COMING!

Because of the prophecies and promises concerning the decade of 2,000; regardless of what happens in the world, WE WILL LOVE, WE WILL FORGIVE NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE DO TO US, WE WILL GIVE, AND GOD WILL PROSPER US!

PRAISE GOD FOREVER!